Rural Development Programmes during Ninth Five Year Plan

1046. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to lay greater emphasis on implementation of rural employment poverty alleviation and rural development programmes in Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the funds earmarked therefor;

(c) whether the outlay fixed for different States has been finalised; and

(d) if so, the State-wise allocations made for these programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA DEHARESHWAR SAVANOOR): (a) Yes, Sir. During the Ninth Plan various poverty alleviation programmes will be suitably redesigned and revamped to make them more effective as instruments of poverty alleviation. They would also be integrated with various sectoral programmes as well as area development programmes within the umbrella of Panchayati Raj Institutions.

(b) to (d) Ninth Plan is still under preparation and both sectoral allocations as well as state-wise allocations will only be known after its finalisation.

UNDP's *rating of India's Progress*

1047. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UNDP's Human Development Report 1997, despite underlining a marginal progress in agriculture, industry and income poverty (population below poverty line of the dollar per day per person), has placed India at the bottom of the heap, with a dismal ranking of 138, just one step ahead of Pakistan, but for below Sri Lanka; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto, and how far Government's assessment agrees with that of UNDP?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA DEHARESHWAR SAVANOOR): (a) Yes, Sir. UNDP's Human Development Report 1997 has placed Indian at 139th position among a total of 175 countries on the Human Development Index.

(b) Human Development Index is an attempt to capture progress in a community as a whole by focussing on three essential elements of human life viz., longevity, knowledge and standard of living. India's performance on income/consumption based indicators of development has been good in recent times. The current thrust of Government policies for eradicating income poverty and focussing on human development priorities—including basic health, basic education, safe drinking water and special attention for socially disadvantaged groups—is expected to yield a better standing for India on the human Development Index.

पिछड़े क्षेत्रों का सर्वेक्षण

1048. **श्री ईश दत्त यादव:**
श्री नागमणि:

क्या **प्रधान मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि योजना आयोग ने विभिन्न क्षेत्रों के पिछड़ेपन के बारे में कोई भी सर्वेक्षण नहीं कराया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ग) सरकार विभिन्न क्षेत्रों के पिछड़ेपन को दूर करने हेतु किन-किन तरीकों का सहारा लेती है?